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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/049,246	01/28/2002	Jeffrey S. Hamilton	T712-11	9406
27832	7590	08/09/2005	EXAMINER	
TECHNOLOGY, PATENTS AND LICENSING, INC./PRIME 6206 KELLERS CHURCH ROAD PIPERSVILLE, PA 18947			CZEKAJ, DAVID J	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			2613	

DATE MAILED: 08/09/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/049,246	Applicant(s) HAMILTON, JEFFREY S.	
	Examiner Dave Czekaj	Art Unit 2613	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 21 March 2005.
- 2a) ☐ This action is FINAL. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-44 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) 4, 14, 29, 30, 33, 39, 43 and 44 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-3, 5-13, 15-28, 31, 32, 34-38 and 40-42 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 28 January 2002 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Election/Restrictions

1. Restriction to one of the following inventions is required under 35 U.S.C. 121:
 - I. Claims 1-3, 5-13, 15-28, 31-32, 34-38, 40-42, drawn to determining a bit rate profile, classified in class 348, subclass 200.
 - II. Claim 43, drawn to a statistical multiplexer, classified in class 375, subclass 240.26.
 - III. Claim 44, drawn to an advertisement insertion server, classified in class 725, subclass 32.

The inventions are distinct, each from the other because of the following reasons:

2. Inventions I and II are related as subcombinations disclosed as usable together in a single combination. The subcombinations are distinct from each other if they are shown to be separately usable. In the instant case, invention II has separate utility such as the specifics of a statistical multiplexer. See MPEP § 806.05(d).
3. Inventions I and III are related as subcombinations disclosed as usable together in a single combination. The subcombinations are distinct from each other if they are shown to be separately usable. In the instant case, invention III has separate utility such as a storage medium for storing and performing processing on advertisements. See MPEP § 806.05(d).
4. Because these inventions are distinct for the reasons given above and have acquired a separate status in the art as shown by their different classification, restriction for examination purposes as indicated is proper.

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5. During a telephone conversation on 7/26/05 a provisional election was made without traverse to prosecute the invention of group I, claims 1-3, 5-13, 15-28, 31-32, 34-38, 40-42. Affirmation of this election must be made by applicant in replying to this Office action. Claims 43 and 44 are withdrawn from further consideration by the examiner, 37 CFR 1.142(b), as being drawn to a non-elected invention.

Claim Objections

6. Claim 9 is objected to because of the following informalities: Claim 9 depends from a withdrawn claim. Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

7. Claims 1-3, 5, 17, 19, 21, 32, and 34 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Tahara et al. (6529550), (hereinafter referred to as "Tahara").

Regarding claims 1 and 17, Tahara discloses an apparatus that relates to a coded stream-splicing device (Tahara: column 1, lines 10-12). This apparatus comprises "computing a rate profile associated with a stream" (Tahara: column 12, lines 35-40, wherein the rate profile is the target bit rate), "compressing the digital media advertisement according to the computed rate profile" (Tahara: column 23, line 55 – column 24, line 10, wherein the digital media advertisement is the commercial, which is encoded according to the bit rate), and "inserting the compressed digital media advertisement in the stream at an advertising

opportunity" (Tahara: column 24, lines 11-15, wherein the advertisement is the commercial which is spliced into the stream).

Regarding claims 2 and 32, Tahara discloses "the rate profile is based on a predetermined bit rate" (Tahara: column 12, lines 35-40, wherein the rate profile is the target bit rate).

Regarding claims 3 and 19, Tahara discloses "the predetermined rate profile comprises a maximum bit rate" (Tahara: column 12, lines 60-65, wherein the maximum bit rate is the optimum bit rate).

Regarding claims 5, 21, and 34, Tahara discloses "the predetermined rate profile comprises a start and end point" (Tahara: column 13, lines 29-31, wherein the start and end point are included in the length of data).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

8. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

9. Claims 6-7, 22, and 35 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Tahara et al. (6529550), (hereinafter referred to as "Tahara").

Regarding claim 6, although not disclosed, it would have been obvious for the rate profile to include insertion instructions (Official Notice). Doing so would have been obvious in order to obtain a correctly formatted output stream.

Regarding claims 7, 22, and 35, Tahara discloses "the rate profile comprises a time varying profile from the start point to the end point" (Tahara: column 13, lines 15-35, wherein each packet will contain different information and arrive/depart at different times making them time varying).

10 ~~A~~. Claims 8, 23, and 36 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Tahara et al. (6529550), (hereinafter referred to as "Tahara") in view of Seo et al. (6208688), (hereinafter referred to as "Seo").

Regarding claims 8, 23, and 36, note the examiners rejection for claim 1, and in addition, claims 8, 23, and 36 differ from claim 1 in that claims 8, 23, and 36 further require the time varying profile to be modeled as a piecewise linear model. Seo teaches that a piecewise linear model can help prevent deterioration (Seo: column 9, lines 24-45). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to take the apparatus disclosed by Tahara and add the piecewise linear model taught by Seo in order to obtain an apparatus that provides the highest possible picture quality.

11 ~~B~~. Claims 9-13, 15-16, 18, 20, 24-28, 31, 37-38, and 40-42 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Tahara et al. (6529550), (hereinafter referred to as "Tahara") in view of Zhang et al. (6611624), (hereinafter referred to as "Zhang").

Regarding claims 9, 24, and 37, note the examiners rejection for claim 1, and in addition, claims 9, 24, and 37 differ from claim 1 in that claims 9, 24, and 37 further require null packets. Zhang teaches that null data can be inserted into

data in order to match bit rates of two different streams (Zhang: column 12, lines 17-22). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to take the apparatus disclosed by Tahara and add the null data taught by Zhang in order to obtain an apparatus that avoids overflow/underflow conditions by being able to match bit rates.

Regarding claims 10 and 31, note the examiners rejection for claim 1, and in addition, Tahara discloses determining a second bit rate profile for a second advertising opportunity” (Tahara: column 12, lines 4-6, wherein the second advertisement is the advertisements located on the plurality of channels).

Regarding claim 11, note the examiners rejection for claim 1.

Regarding claims 12 and 27, although not disclosed, it would have been obvious for the profile to supply the instantaneous sum of the first and second bit rate profile (Official Notice). Doing so would have been obvious in order to make the apparatus operate more efficiently by already knowing the sum of the bit rates, instead of calculating them.

Regarding claims 13 and 28, note the examiners rejection for claims 5 and 10.

Regarding claim 15, Seo discloses “the first and second bit rate profiles have first and second high bit rate portions which are staggered” (Seo: figures 3A-3B, wherein the bit rates are shown to be staggered).

Regarding claim 16, note the examiners rejection for claim 1, and in addition, Tahara discloses “a rate profile monitor for monitoring a rate profile”

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(Tahara: column 12, lines 59-67, wherein the rate is monitored and dynamically changed so the channel will not exceed its maximum capacity).

Regarding claim 18, note the examiners rejection for claim 2.

Regarding claim 20, although not disclosed, it would have been obvious to compress the advertisement at a minimum bit rate (Official Notice). Doing so would have been obvious in order to avoid underflow complications.

Regarding claim 25, note the examiners rejection for claim 10, and in addition, Tahara discloses "encoding the advertisements at an aggregate bit rate profile which is less than or equal to the sum of the first and second profiles" (Tahara: column 12, lines 60-65, wherein the aggregate bit rate is the target bit rate, wherein the sum of the first and second profiles or the stream does not exceed the transmission rate).

Regarding claim 26, note the examiners rejection for claims 1 and 10.

Regarding claims 38 and 40-42, note the examiners rejection for claim 1, and in addition, Tahara discloses "a statistical multiplexor capable of determining an available bandwidth" (Tahara: column 12, lines 7-9).

Conclusion

12 ~~6~~. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure:

US-6029045	02-2000	Picco et al.
US-6137834	10-2000	Wine et al.
US-6181711	01-2001	Zhang et al.

US-6481012 11-2002 Gordon et al.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Dave Czekaj whose telephone number is (571) 272-7327. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Friday 9 hours.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Mehrdad Dastouri can be reached on (571) 272-7418. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

DJC


VU LE
PRIMARY EXAMINER